

EDUCATION

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Response Requested: Office of Education

Findings: Grand Jury members attended school district board meetings, observed the Educational Classroom at the Juvenile Detention facility, toured the library and computer lab at High Desert State Prison, and observed the vocational training offered at the California Correctional Center.

The Grand Jury interviewed Superintendent/President of Lassen Community College. We learned that the full-time equivalent students (FTE's) are down at the college due to the enactment of SB 338. This legislation limits concurrent enrollment of pupils who have not yet graduated from high school to no more than 10% of a physical education class.

The overall effect of this legislation, combined with the actions of principals not authorizing enrollment for their students, has been the loss of approximately 225 FTES. The overall plan, as expressed by the President, is to attain the goal of 900 full-time students on the Lassen Community College campus.

The college continues to create new courses and programs to aid in increasing student enrollments. New courses and programs offered are community services classes and recreation activities. A new and aggressive recruiting program has been initiated to better inform the citizens of the college's service area and those prospective students from outside the area of the high quality of education available at Lassen Community College.

Lassen High School District reports: 1050 students at LHS campus, 30 at Credence, and 15 at two community day schools.

Complaint: Lassen High School student assistants (T.A.'s) have accessed student records on a main office computer. A student allegedly altered her own attendance record.

Recommendation: Improved control is needed over the office computers.

1. Leave no active computer turned on when not attended by an employee.
2. Allow fewer students inside the main office work area. LHS Regional Occupational Program (ROP) Lassen High School 2002-2003 district audit shows material weakness regarding ROP enrollment.

Complaint: LHS did not report attendance for ROP students correctly to the state. The report shows 16 students that LHS shouldn't have claimed; resulting in \$88,000 owed to the state. California Education Code states that the Principal and the Superintendent are responsible for tracking ROP attendance. The Board of Trustees is fiscally aware of that the Superintendent has asked for a waiver from the state.

The Grand Jury reviewed Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-2004 the ROP reporting problem is ongoing, with even more students in violation this year.

\$88,170.00 ADA reported on the 2002/03 P-2 and annual attendance reports were both overstated by 16.11 ADA. Questioned costs were computed as follows: 16.11 ADA x \$5,473 per ADA base revenue limit = \$88,170.

Source: June 30, 2003 LassenUnion High School District audit report.

Recommendation: LHS Board should adopt a policy that in order for students to qualify for ROP they must require all students enrolled in ROP classes to meet the State Ed. Code requirement of enrollment in 4 hours of standard classroom instruction. ROP attendance accounting must be more accurate.

Complaint: LHS is paying 1/3 of the salary of a City Police Officer who has a presence on the campus and provides security. The Officer has done a few home visits on students who have school attendance problems. The Grand Jury found that LHS staff has gone on the majority of home visits.

Recommendation: the School Police Officer should go on the majority of home visits.

Complaint: LHS Administrative structure was looked into: the hours, times etc.

Recommendation: Credence High School should have its own administrator.

The Grand Jury was pleased to learn that the LHS 7-step discipline program is going well, and that the State of California School Recognition Program recognized Lassen High School as a Distinguished High School in 2003.